

Home Maintenance & Operations for Energy Savings:

Caulking & Weatherstripping

- Time and weather will shrink caulking and dry it out so that it no longer provides a good seal against air infiltration. Check caulking at least once a year and make repairs as needed. Check windows, doors, outdoor faucets, wire and pipe holes and where different siding materials meet.
- Check weatherstripping at least once a year and repair or replace as needed.
- Check door sweeps at least once a year and repair or replace as needed.

Heating System

- Keep your heating system well tuned with an annual maintenance check-up by service professionals.
- Install an automatic setback thermostat to lower the temperature to 60 degrees F. at night and when no one is home. Manual setback can work too.
- Setting the thermostat higher than needed will not heat your home quicker.
- Clean or replace the air filter once a month to assure the best airflow and efficiency.
- Make sure air vents are not blocked. Place furniture and draperies to allow unobstructed air flow.

Cooling System

- Keep your cooling system well tuned with an annual maintenance check-up by service professionals.
- Set the thermostat as high as possible – 78 degrees is often considered a comfortable indoor temperature and can result in big savings. A programmable thermostat can set the temperature higher for times when you are gone.
- Setting the thermostat lower than needed will not cool your home quicker.
- Clean or replace the air filter once a month.
- Keep the outside of air conditioning units free from leaves and other debris that can clog vents.

Hot Water Heater

- Set water heater temperature at 120 degrees F. When you leave on vacation turn down the temperature on the water heater.
- Fix leaky or dripping water faucets.
- Review and follow manufacturer's timetable and instructions for draining several gallons of water from the bottom of the water heater. This helps to prevent build up of chemical deposits from the water and prolongs the life of the tank as well as saving energy.